592 feet tall, but vary from place to place.

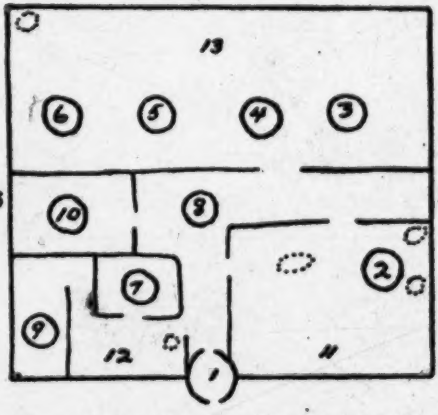
592 181 The diagram below gives an "ideal" picture of a Kanuri household,(1) although it is an example which was actually observed. It is called "ideal" because it is not a universal pattern, but is the embodiment of what each young man dreams of aspiring to if he is successful in life.

DIAGRAM OF "IDEAL" KANURI COMPOUND

Legend

1. large entrance hut
2. hut of compound head
3. hut of senior wife
4, 5, 6. huts of other wives
7. hut of son
8. hut of mother of compound head
9. hut of son's wife
10. hut of servant
11. horse stall
12. son's horse stall and granary
13. garden area

dotted lines show granaries



592 Only prepubertal boys and females are allowed into the women's section at the back of the compound. Most of the male social life takes place in front of the household or in the large entrance hut. More intimate male friends of the family may come into the male quarters of the compound, although this is not a frequent occurrence. The mother of the household head whose extreme age makes her role more asexual has a hut (8) less secluded than those of the wives of the household. In good Kanuri fashion, the compound head is supporting his widowed mother.

(1) It is a diagram map of the compound of the Village Head of Magumeri. To make it more typical one hut has been deleted beside (6) which housed a concubine. The direction of the house - facing west - is typical for all huts but not all compounds, except those of political leaders.